

REMARKS

The present application relates to hybrid maize plant and seed 34M94. Claims 1-41 are currently pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks.

Detailed Action***A. Status of the Application***

Applicant acknowledges the objection to claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 16 are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments and remarks regarding the deposit of biological materials.

B. Claims and Specification

Applicant acknowledges the addition of new claims 42 through 62, placed in the format suggested by the claims faxed by Supervisory Patent Examiner Amy Nelson on August 2, 2002 and again on November 15, 2002 by Examiner David Fox. The new claims do not add new matter as there is literal support for the claims in the originally filed specification (pages 40-52, specification). Finally, Applicant submits that the Deposits section has been amended in order to properly include both the hybrid maize plant 34M94 and the inbred parents GE568044 and GE533486 within the deposit paragraph. The changes do not add new matter as there is literal support for the minor changes on page 7 in the originally filed specification. The specification has now been amended to correct these minor changes.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 9-11, 13-18, 21, 22-24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32 remain rejected and newly added claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is repeated for reasons of record in the Office Action mailed July 16, 2002.

Claims 9, 13, 17, 22, 26, and 30 remain indefinite because the claims do not set forth any positive method steps leading to the maize plant at line 1 of the claims. The Examiner states it is unclear what the metes and bounds of the claimed methods are.

Applicant has canceled claims 9, 13, 17, 22, 26, and 30, thus alleviating this rejection. Applicant further acknowledges the addition of new claims 42 through 62, placed in the format

suggested by the claims faxed by Supervisory Patent Examiner Amy Nelson on August 2, 2002 and again on November 15, 2002 by Examiner David Fox. The new claims do not add new matter as there is literal support for the claims in the originally filed specification (pages 40-52, specification).

The Examiner rejects claims 10, 14, 18, 23, 27 and 31 as indefinite for being dependent upon an indefinite claim. The Examiner states the limitations within said claims do not obviate the indefiniteness of the claim upon which they depend.

Applicant has canceled claims 10, 14, 18, 23, 27 and 31, thus alleviating this rejection.

Claims 11, 15, 19, 24, 28 and 32 remain indefinite because the phrases "excellent grain yield potential", "strong stalks" and "particularly suited...of the United States", for example, are relative and do not state the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Applicant has canceled claims 11, 15, 19, 24, 28 and 32, thereby alleviating this rejection.

The Examiner rejects claims 16 and 29 as indefinite because a hybrid maize plant is not produced by a backcrossing technique. The Examiner further states it is unclear what the metes and bounds of these claims are.

Applicant has canceled claims 16 and 29, alleviating this rejection.

Claims 8 and 21 remain indefinite because the plant of claims 2 and 20, respectively, are not male sterile. Applicant's amendments to claims 8 and 21 are noted. The Examiner further states the claims remain indefinite because it is confusing to denote the fertile hybrid maize plant 34M94 as male sterile.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant submits support can be found on page 13 of the specification, wherein it states "[i]t should be understood that the inbred can, through routine manipulation of cytoplasmic or other factors, be produced in male-sterile form. Such embodiments are also contemplated within the scope of the present claims." Further, the specification states hybrid maize seed is typically produced by a male sterility system incorporating manual or mechanical detasseling" (page 2, specification). In addition, the "detasseling process can be avoided by using cytoplasmic male-sterile inbreds" (page 2, specification). As taught in the specification there are several methods of conferring male sterility. Therefore, Applicant asserts that one skilled in the art would not find the terminology indefinite. In addition, claim 21 has now been canceled, alleviating this rejection.

Claim 40 stands rejected as the claim is directed to a 34M94 maize plant said plant being produced by a method wherein the exemplified 34M94 maize plant is crossed with a second plant. The Examiner states the plant at claim 40 cannot be the maize plant of claim 2 designated 34M94 or produced by the method of claim 38, to which the instant claim is directed and only have 50% of its alleles from the 34M94 maize plant of claim 2 thus the Examiner concludes it is unclear what the metes and bounds of the claimed invention are.

Applicant has canceled claim 40, thereby alleviating this rejection.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 11, 15, 19, 24, 28, 32, 34, 39, 40 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner states that claims 11, 15, 19, 24, 29, 32, 39 and 40, limitations "wherein said maize plant has derived at least 50% of its ancestral alleles from 34M94" and "deriving at least 50% of its ancestral alleles from 34M94" appear to be new matter. The Examiner concludes it is unclear from the instant specification that Applicant had contemplated such a claim limitation at the time of Applicant's invention.

Applicant has now canceled claims 11, 15, 19, 24, 28, 32, 34, 39, 40 and 41, thus alleviating this rejection. Applicant has added new claims 42 – 62, placed in the format suggested by the claims faxed by Supervisory Patent Examiner Amy Nelson on August 2, 2002 and again on November 15, 2002 by Examiner David Fox. Applicant believes the new claims come within the purview of the written description requirement and do not add new matter.

The Examiner rejects claims 34 and 41 as the subject matter directed to producing double haploids of the described hybrid maize plant 34M94 appears to be new matter. The Examiner further notes that it is not specified where claims 34 and 41 are supported in the instant specification that Applicant had contemplated such a claim at the time of Applicant's invention.

Applicant has canceled claims 34 and 41, thereby alleviating this rejection. Applicants respectfully assert that the specification need not disclose what is well known in the art. See *In*

re Myers, 161 U.S.P.Q. 668 (CCPA 1969). In addition, Applicant is attaching herewith Wan *et al.*, "Efficient Production of Doubled Haploid Plants Through Colchicine Treatment of Anther-Derived Maize Callus", Theoretical and Applied Genetics, 77:889-892, 1989, which supports Applicant's assertion that producing double haploids is well known to one ordinarily skilled in the art and therefore does not have to be described in the specification. Applicant further submits the specification states "[p]lant breeding techniques known in the art and used in a maize plant breeding program include, but are not limited to, recurrent selection backcrossing, pedigree breeding, restriction length polymorphism enhanced selection, genetic marker enhanced selection and transformation" (page 3, specification). It is well understood to one ordinarily skilled in the art that double haploids are produced by the doubling of a set of chromosomes (1N) from a heterozygous plant to produce a completely homozygous individual and that this is advantageous because the process can eliminate the generations of selfing needed to obtain a homozygous plant from a heterozygous source. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 47 and 55 are definite.

Claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 32 remain rejected and claims 8-10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21-23, 26, 27, 30, 31 and 34-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner states this rejection is repeated for reason of record for claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 32. Claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30 and 31 are now included in the rejection because these claims are broadly drawn to a method of using a multitude of non-exemplified, uncharacterized breeding partners in an unlimited number of crosses, given the open claim language and the failure to specify that an F1 hybrid is produced. The Examiner further states that claims 8 and 21 are now included in the rejection because the specification does not describe a plant which is simultaneously male fertile and male sterile.

Applicant has now canceled claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 32 and claims 9-10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21-23, 26, 27, 30, 31 and 34-41, thus alleviating this rejection. Applicant has amended claim 8 and added new claims 42 – 62, placed in the format suggested by the claims faxed by Supervisory Patent Examiner Amy Nelson on August 2, 2002 and again on November 15, 2002 by Examiner David Fox. Applicant believes the new claims come within the purview of the written description requirement and do not add new matter.

The Examiner states claims 13, 14, 17, 18, 26, 27, 30 and 31 remain rejected and claims 8-11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21-24, 25, 28, 29, 32 and 34-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first

paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner states this rejection is repeated for reasons of record as set forth in the last Office Action for claims 13, 14, 17, 18, 26, 27, 30 and 31. Claims 8-11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21-24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 34 and 35-41 are now included in the rejection because these claims are broadly drawn to non-exemplified progeny plants, methods of using a multitude of non-exemplified, uncharacterized breeding partners in an unlimited number of crosses, given the open claim language and the failure to specify that an F1 hybrid is produced. The Examiner further states claims 8 and 21 are now included in the rejection because the specification does not describe a plant which is simultaneously male fertile and male sterile.

Applicant has now canceled claims 13, 14, 17, 18, 26, 27, 30 and 31 and claims 9-11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21-24, 25, 28, 29, 32 and 34-41, alleviating this rejection. Applicant has amended claim 8 and added new claims 42 – 62, placed in the format suggested by the claims faxed by Supervisory Patent Examiner Amy Nelson on August 2, 2002 and again on November 15, 2002 by Examiner David Fox. Applicant believes the new claims come within the purview of the written description requirement and do not add new matter.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 9-19, 22-32 and 34-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claims 11, 15, 19, 24, 28, 31 and 32 remain rejected and claims 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Hoffbeck (U.S. Patent 6,211,445). The Examiner asserts this rejection is repeated for the reason of record as set forth in the last Office Action mailed July 16, 2002. The Examiner concludes stating that the claimed invention is *prima facie* obvious as a whole to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time it was made, if not anticipated by Hoffbeck.

Applicant has canceled claims 11, 15, 19, 24, 28, 31, 32 and claims 39 and 40, thereby alleviating this rejection. Applicant has now amended claim 8 and added new claims 42 – 62, placed in the format suggested by the claims faxed by Supervisory Patent Examiner Amy Nelson on August 2, 2002 and again on November 15, 2002 by Examiner David Fox. Further, Applicant

submits *In re Thorpe*, states that "a product by process claim may be properly rejected over prior art teaching the same product produced by a different process", as noted by the Examiner. *In re Thorpe*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). However, Applicant submits that this is not the same product physiologically or morphologically as the cited prior art as can be evidenced by one skilled in the art through analysis of the data tables in each. In addition, it is impermissible to use hindsight reconstruction and the benefit of Applicant's disclosure to pick among pieces which are present in the art, there must be some suggestion to make the combination and an expectation of success. *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1434 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Moreover, Applicant claims a method of making a plant which did not previously exist. Pursuant to the recent Federal Circuit decision, *Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. v. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research*, 304 F.3d 1221, (Fed. Cir. 2002), "a novel patented product is not "anticipated" if it did not previously exist." *Id.* This is the case whether or not the process for making the new product is generally known. *Id.* The invention 34M94 has not previously existed as it is the result of crossing two maize inbred lines GE568044 and GE533486 therefore Applicant strongly asserts that neither the suggestion of the claimed unique invention of the present application nor the expectation of success is taught for one ordinarily skilled in the art in the reference cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Hoffbeck (U.S. Patent 6,211,445).

Applicant acknowledges that claims 1-7, 20 and 33 are allowed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicant submits in light of the above amendments and remarks, the claims as amended are in a condition for allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

No additional fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Efficient production of doubled haploid plants through colchicine treatment of anther-derived maize callus

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Summary. A chromosome doubling technique, involving colchicine treatment of an embryogenic, haploid callus line of maize (*Zea mays* L., derived through anther culture), was evaluated. Two colchicine levels (0.025% and 0.05%) and three treatment durations (24, 48, and 72 h) were used and compared to untreated controls. Chromosome counts and seed recovery from regenerated plants were determined. No doubled haploid plants were regenerated from calli without colchicine treatment. After treatment with colchicine for 24 h, the callus tissue regenerated about 50% doubled haploid plants. All of the plants regenerated from the calli treated with colchicine for 72 h were doubled haploids, except for a few tetraploid plants. No significant difference in chromosome doubling was observed between the two colchicine levels. Most of the doubled haploid plants produced viable pollen and a total of 107 of 336 doubled haploid plants produced from 1 to 256 seeds. Less extensive studies with two other genotypes gave similar results. These results demonstrate that colchicine treatment of haploid callus tissue can be a very effective and relatively easy method of obtaining a high frequency of doubled haploid plants through anther culture.

Key words: *Zea mays* - Anther culture - Embryogenic haploid callus - Chromosome doubling

Introduction

The success of producing haploid plants in maize through anther culture makes it possible to generate

inbred lines through chromosome doubling (Kuo et al. 1986). However, the application of anther culture to plant breeding is largely dependent on the production of large numbers of haploid plants and the high frequency of induction of chromosome doubling. In maize, anther-derived lines have been developed and used commercially (Wu et al. 1983). However, the frequency of chromosome doubling of anther-derived haploid plants either spontaneously or through colchicine treatment has been undesirably low (Ku et al. 1978; Nitsch et al. 1982; Miao et al. 1978). Ku et al. (1978) and Nitsch et al. (1982) observed only 6.3% and 4.5% spontaneously doubled haploids among plants regenerated from cultured maize anthers, respectively. Miao et al. (1978) treated anther-derived plantlets and obtained only one plant which set seeds from the 24 plants that survived.

With many plant species, chromosome doubling can be achieved by the use of an antimitotic agent treatment of anther-derived, haploid plantlets. Since antimitotic agents such as colchicine usually induce chromosome doubling in only some cells due to the asynchrony of cell divisions, chimeric plants are common after colchicine treatment. For plant species which produce bisexual flowers and tillers or branches, chimeras are acceptable since some tillers or branches may develop from the chromosome-doubled cells. In contrast, maize plants usually do not produce tillers and cell lines which give rise to the tassel and ear are already determined in the mature seed (Coe and Neuffer 1978). Colchicine treatment of maize seedlings or plantlets may double the chromosome number in the tassel or ear, but often not in both, which will make self-pollination impossible. These reasons may explain why the efficiency of inducing doubled haploid plants in maize is very low by colchicine treatment of regenerated haploid plantlets (Miao et al. 1978).

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Since somatic embryos from tissue cultures may develop from one or a few cells, it may be possible to induce chromosome doubling in embryogenic haploid callus and then induce plant regeneration from this tissue (Genovesi and Collins 1982). The use of a long term haploid culture system capable of plant regeneration may make the chromosome doubling technique effective as proposed by Tsay et al. (1986). This paper reports the recovery of doubled haploid plants with high frequency through colchicine treatment of embryogenic haploid callus initiated from maize anther culture.

Materials and methods

Establishment of callus cultures. F1 plants of a maize hybrid, H99 x Fr16, were grown in the field in 1987. Tassel collection to anther plating were carried out by previously described methods (Petolino and Thompson 1987). Petri dishes containing anthers were placed in plastic boxes covered with aluminum foil at 28°C. About 1 month later, embryo-like structures began to appear from responding anthers. The embryo-like structures were removed from the anthers and were transferred to a callus induction medium. The callus induction medium consisted of macronutrients and vitamins of N6 medium (Chu et al. 1975), micronutrients of B5 medium (Gamborg et al. 1968) with 2,4-D (0.45 μ M), dicamba (11.3 μ M), myo-inositol (0.55 mM), L-proline (25.0 mM), casein hydrolysate (0.1 g/l), sucrose (87.6 mM), Na₂EDTA (110.55 μ M) and FeSO₄ · 7H₂O (100.2 μ M). Callus lines, each of which was derived from a single embryo-like structure, were maintained in the callus induction medium through subcultures by selective transfer of the embryogenic calli at 4-week intervals. One highly regenerable callus line was used 6 months after culture initiation.

Colchicine treatment. Colchicine was dissolved in water to make a stock solution which was filter-sterilized and then added to liquid D medium (Duncan et al. 1985) to the required final concentrations and stored in the dark. About 20 ml of the medium was placed in Petri dishes (100 × 25 mm) and a filter paper disc supported by a stainless steel screen, which were autoclaved previously, was saturated with the liquid medium. Embryogenic calli, 20 days after subculture, were cut into 0.5–1.0 mm pieces and were plated on the moist filter paper and incubated in the dark at 28°C. Following treatment, the calli were placed on a stainless steel screen and were rinsed twice in liquid D medium without colchicine. Two colchicine levels (0.025% and 0.05%) and three treatment durations were used and compared with untreated control.

Plant regeneration from treated calli. Colchicine treated calli were subcultured two times with an interval of 10 days on agar-solidified D medium. For plant regeneration, calli were transferred to H medium (Duncan et al. 1985) with 3.3 mg/l 6-henzyladenine for 3 days. The calli were then cultured in H medium until some regenerated plantlets grew to 3–4 cm long, which occurred within about 20 days. The regenerated plantlets were transferred to H medium minus RJ vitamins and glucose in culture tubes for further growth. After 7–10 days, they were transplanted to soil in 11.5-cm pots and grown for another 10–15 days (or even longer depending on the growth of each plant). Finally, the plants were transplanted to 27.5-cm pots in the greenhouse and at least two root tips were collected from each plant for mitotic examination.

Plants with pollen and silks were self-pollinated on successive days. The dates of the first day of pollen shed and the first day of silk emergence were recorded for 33 representative doubled haploid plants. Seeds were harvested 40–45 days after pollination.

Determination of ploidy level. The root tips were cold-treated in ice water for 24 h and fixed in 3:1 95% ethanol/glacial acetic acid for 24 h and then stored in 70% ethanol. For mitotic examination, the root tips from each plant were placed in a small vial with 1% acetocarmine and heated to the boiling point several times. The meristematic region was excised and squashed in one drop of 45% glacial acetic acid on a slide. At least two root tips from each regenerated plant were examined to determine the ploidy level.

Results

All 24 plants regenerated from the untreated calli contained the haploid number of ten chromosomes (Table 1, Fig. 1a). Of 96 plants regenerated from calli treated for 24 h with either 0.025% or 0.05% colchicine, 49 were diploid with 20 chromosomes (Fig. 1b), and the other 47 were haploid with ten chromosomes. Of 53 plants from the calli treated with colchicine for 48 h, 29 were diploid plants. Calli treated for 72 h did not regenerate any haploid plants with most being diploid plants except for one and four tetraploid plants with 40 chromosomes obtained from the two 72-h treatments of 0.025% and 0.05% colchicine, respectively. No significant difference in chromosome doubling was observed between these two colchicine levels (Table 1).

The haploid plants regenerated in this study all displayed a characteristic morphology (short, narrow leaves, reduced vigor, and no pollen shed). Under the same growing conditions, the doubled haploid plants

Table 1. Ploidy of plants regenerated from colchicine-treated haploid calli as determined from root tip squashes

Colchicine treatment		No. of plants regenerated		
Hours	Concen-tration	Total	Haploid	Diploid
				Tetra-ploid
24	—	24	24	0
	0.025%	48	29	23
	0.05%	48	24	24
Total		96	47	49
48	0.025%	22	8	14
	0.05%	31	16	15
	—	53	24	29
Total		53	24	29
72	0.025%	31	0	31
	0.05%	32	0	28
	—	63	0	58

were generally more vigorous in appearance and grew more rapidly when compared with the haploid plants (Fig. 2). The doubled haploid plants from different treatments exhibited similar morphology. Most of them produced abundant, viable pollen. A common feature of many of the doubled haploid plants was the appearance of tassels with some female flowers. The ears of these plants could, however, still be self-pollinated if the silks emerged in time.

Most of the doubled haploid plants, 107 of 136, produced from 1 to 256 seed per ear after self-pollination. A few ears had almost normal seed set (Fig. 3). Among 29 doubled haploid plants which did not produce seed, 21 of the plants could not be pollinated due to unsynchronous pollen shed and silk emergence, the lack of ear development, or to stunted growth. Eight other plants produced no seed even after being pollinated one or two times on successive days. The synchrony of pollen shed and silk emergence were the main factors which affected the seed production by the doubled haploid plants. As shown in Table 2, if the silks emerged for pollination 1–3 days later than the first pollen was shed, an average of more than 87 seeds per ear were set. If the pollination was started 4 days later than the first pollen was shed, the seed set was dramatically decreased to 39 seeds per ear. Most plants would not set seed if silk emergence was delayed 5 days or more after pollen shed began.

Five tetraploid plants were found among the plants regenerated after the two 72-h colchicine treatments. Of these five plants, two plants had terminal ears and three plants had good pollen shed, but due to late silk emergence, only two of the plants produced one seed each after self-pollination.

Another-derived callus lines from two other hybrids, H99 × Pa91 and Pa91 × Fr16, were also treated with colchicine. Due to lower regenerability of the callus line from Pa91 × Fr16 and incomplete experiment design for the callus line from H99 × Pa91, the data from these two lines are not included. However, these experiments also showed that the longer the callus cultures were incubated

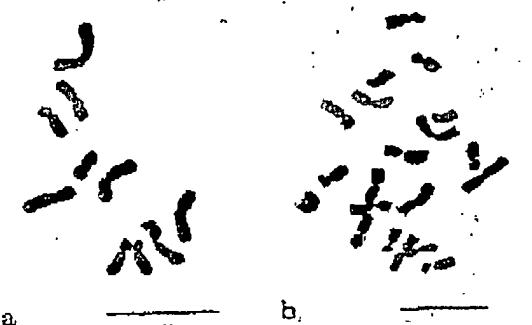


Fig. 1 a and b. Root tip chromosomes from a) a haploid cell with 10 chromosomes from a plant regenerated from untreated callus and b) a diploid cell with 20 chromosomes from a plant regenerated from colchicine treated callus. Bar represents 10 μ m

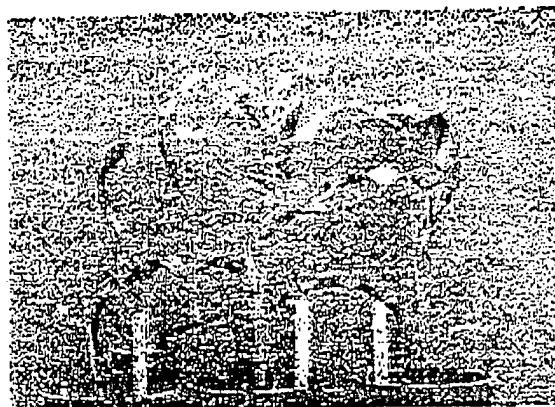


Fig. 2. Typical appearance of a doubled haploid plant (middle) from colchicine treated haploid callus, haploid plant (right) from colchicine-treated haploid callus, and haploid plant (left) from untreated callus. The pot diameters are 27.3 cm

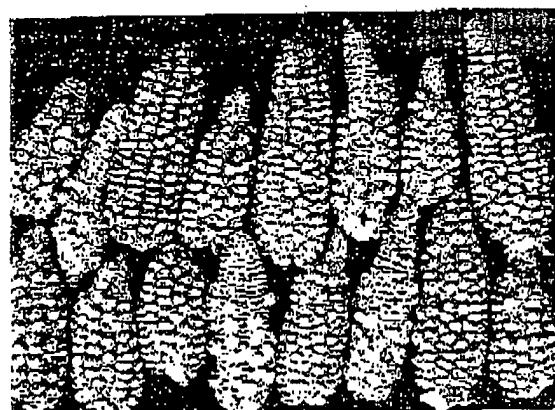


Fig. 3. Mature ears resulting from self-pollination of some doubled haploid plants

Table 2. The relationship between the delay in silk emergence after the beginning of pollen shed and the average number of seed produced per ear from 33 randomly selected doubled haploid plants

Silk emergence delay (d)	No. of plants pollinated*	Average seeds per ear	No. of ears without seed
1	4	100.3	0
2	8	91.0	0
3	8	37.1	0
4	3	19.0	0
5–5	8	2.3	3

* One ear per plant was self-pollinated

in colchicine-containing medium, the more diploid plants were regenerated, and no diploid plants were regenerated from the control calli without colchicine treatment. These results then indicate that chromosome doubling of maize callus tissue by colchicine treatment is reproducible and is not genotype-specific.

Discussion

The present study shows that the colchicine treatment of the embryogenic haploid maize callus can be very effective for producing a large number of doubled haploid plants. By incubating embryogenic haploid calli on colchicine-containing medium, doubled haploid plants were produced at high frequencies. Since all the plants from untreated calli were haploids, the occurrence of doubled haploid plants must be due to the effect of colchicine. The method is rapid since it only required 6 months from colchicine treatment of calli to the harvest of seeds from the regenerated doubled haploid plant.

The results of this study suggest that the duration of colchicine treatment is important. The treatment of more than 48 h is necessary in order to get higher frequency of doubled haploids among the regenerated plants. If the treatment is 72 h, tetraploid plants could be produced, which may not be desirable. The two concentrations of colchicine used, 0.025% and 0.05%, did not show significant differences in their chromosome doubling efficiency.

There was no indication that ploidy chimeras were regenerated, since most of the doubled haploid plants produced seeds after self-pollination. The problem which caused the doubled haploid plants to not set seeds was mainly delayed silk emergence or the lack of ear formation, which are common phenomena among tissue culture-derived maize plants (Miao et al. 1978; Petolino and Jones 1986). The abnormal plants found among the regenerates were probably due to the tissue culture conditions rather than the colchicine treatment since the same abnormalities (stunted growth, terminal ear, the lack of normal ear) existed among the plants regenerated from untreated control calli. In practice, only vigorous plantlets should be selected before transplanting to greenhouse or field. This should reduce the frequency of abnormal plants.

The results show that colchicine treatment of embryogenic haploid callus can result in the production of

entire doubled haploid plants with high frequency, whilst produce fertile maize inbred lines within a short time & a high frequency, thus making the anther culture technique more useful to the plant breeder.

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